

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 MC-02 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /104 W
----- 037040

R 110850 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3025

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4399

E . O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MCAP JA

SUBJECT: PRIMIN TANAKA PROMISES IN DIET TO LIMIT RANGE OF
JAPANESE F4 EJ

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY TETSU UEDA (JSP) IN UPPER HOUSE BUDGET SESSION APRIL 10, MEDIA REPORTED THAT PRIMIN TANAKA PROMISED NOT TO ALLOW MID- AIR REFUELING OF JASDF F4 EJ FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. FOR NOW AT LEAST, THIS SHOULD QUIET DIET DEBATE ABOUT WHETHER REFUELING CAPABILITY EXTENDS RANGE OF F4 EJ BEYOND POINT AT WHICH IT BECOMES OFFENSIVE WEAPON SYSTEM, AND WHETHER REFUEL- CAPABLE PHANTOM THUS CONSTITUTES THREAT TO OTHER NATIONS WHICH FORBIDDEN BY CONSTITUTION. PRIMIN ALSO QUOTED AS PROMISING THAT JASDF WOULD NEITHER TRAIN PERSONNEL TO CONDUCT MID- AIR PHANTOM REFUELING, NOR MAINTAIN REFUELING FACILITIES.

2. PRIMIN EXPRESSED REGRET FOR CARELESS STATEMENT MADE BY JDA DEFENSE BUREAU DIRECTOR TAKUYA KUBO IN EARLIER DIET DEBATE OF THIS SUBJECT, I. E., THAT MID- AIR TECHNIQUE WOULD REDUCE REFUELING TIME TO FOUR MINUTES FROM EIGHT MINUTES REQUIRED ON GROUND. WHEN UEDA AND OTHERS DISPUTED ACCURACY OF FIGURES IN DIET APRIL 3, ON BASIS OF OWN ON- SITE STUDY CONDUCTED AT SELF DEFENSE FORCE BASE AT HYAKURI (IBARAGI PREFECTURE), KUBO ADMITTED THAT FIGURES HE CITED WERE NOT BASED ON JASDF TIME TESTS, BUT HAD BEEN PROVIDED BY MITSUBISHI FIRM WHICH MANUFACTURES REFUELING DEVICE.
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3. PRIMIN TANAKA ALSO MADE PUBLIC FACT THAT HE HAD
CAUTIONED KUBO SEVERELY FOR ABOVE CARELESS STATEMENT. IN
ADDITION TO EARLIER ADMONITION TO JDA DIRGEN KEIKICHI
MASUHARA FOR LACK OF LEADERSHIP IN HANDLING THIS ISSUE.
INGERSOLL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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